the concerned State Government is ready to bear 50% of the loss (25% in case of North Eastern States), in its implementation.

Decline in growth rate of foodgrain production

*156. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that annual growth rate of foodgrain production has slipped from 16 per cent in 1991-96 to merely 2.9 per cent in 2001-05;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a fall; and

(c) the special steps contemplated for the last phase of the Tenth Five Year Plan to improve this growth rate and the targets fixed for these years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. The annual average growth rate of foodgrains production during the period 1990-91 to 1995-96 was only 0.57%, as against 2.06% during the period 2000-01 to 2004-05.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For the year 2005-06, the target of foodgrains production has been fixed at 215.00 million tonnes which would give a growth rate of 5% over the preceding year. The target for the terminal year of the Tenth Plan, i.e. 2006-07 will be fixed before the commencement of the ensuing agricultural year. To achieve this growth, several schemes/initiatives are under implementation which include: (i) Integrated Crop Development Programme (ICDP) for Wheat, Rice, Coarse Cereals; (ii) Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM); (iii) Efforts are on to Enhance Sustainability of Dry Land Farming Systems in the arid and semi arid regions of the country particularly in the districts having low annual rainfall and less coverage under assured irrigation; (iv) Enhancing irrigation efficiency, including increasing areas under micro irrigation; (v) Increasing production and productivity of crops through research and extension.

Model stations in Uttar Pradesh

†*157. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to give model look to some of the stations in the State of Uttar Pradesh under the Tenth Five Year Plan;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.